

Christian world

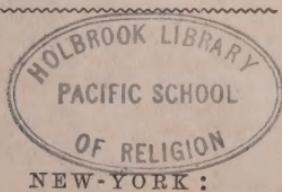
THE

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN
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"THE ENTRANCE OF THY WORD GIVETH LIGHT."

VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

As is usual in such cases, the Introduction to this first volume of THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CHRISTIAN UNION is the last portion of it to be written. We avail ourselves of the occasion to say a few words relative to our work.

We have aimed to accomplish two objects. The first has been to give a sufficient account of the operations of the Society, at home and abroad; the nature of the work which it is endeavoring to accomplish; and the encouragements which present themselves on all hands to induce to its vigorous prosecution. The second has been to give as much valuable information as we could, in a short space, respecting the state of Religion throughout Christendom.

In relation to the first named object we have given a goodly amount of detail. It is our intention, next year, to give even a greater amount, but in a more condensed form; contenting ourselves with summaries of facts and labors, instead of long reports, from our Missionaries.

As to the second object, we have made a beginning. In regard to our own country, we have given notices of the five great Denominations—the Episcopal, the Congregational, the Baptist, the Presbyterian, and the Methodist. We have also entered upon the work of sketching the Minor Religious Denominations, which are kindred to one or another of the Great Denominations, and have spoken of the Moravians and the smaller Baptist bodies. It is our intention to prosecute this plan, and give a brief notice of all the remaining evangelical bodies in our land, of every name, and of every size. After that we shall speak of the non-evangelical bodies among us. But we shall scarcely reach them during the coming year.

We have also given seven articles in this volume on CHRISTENDOM ABROAD, in which we have made brief notices of the Scan-

INTRODUCTION.

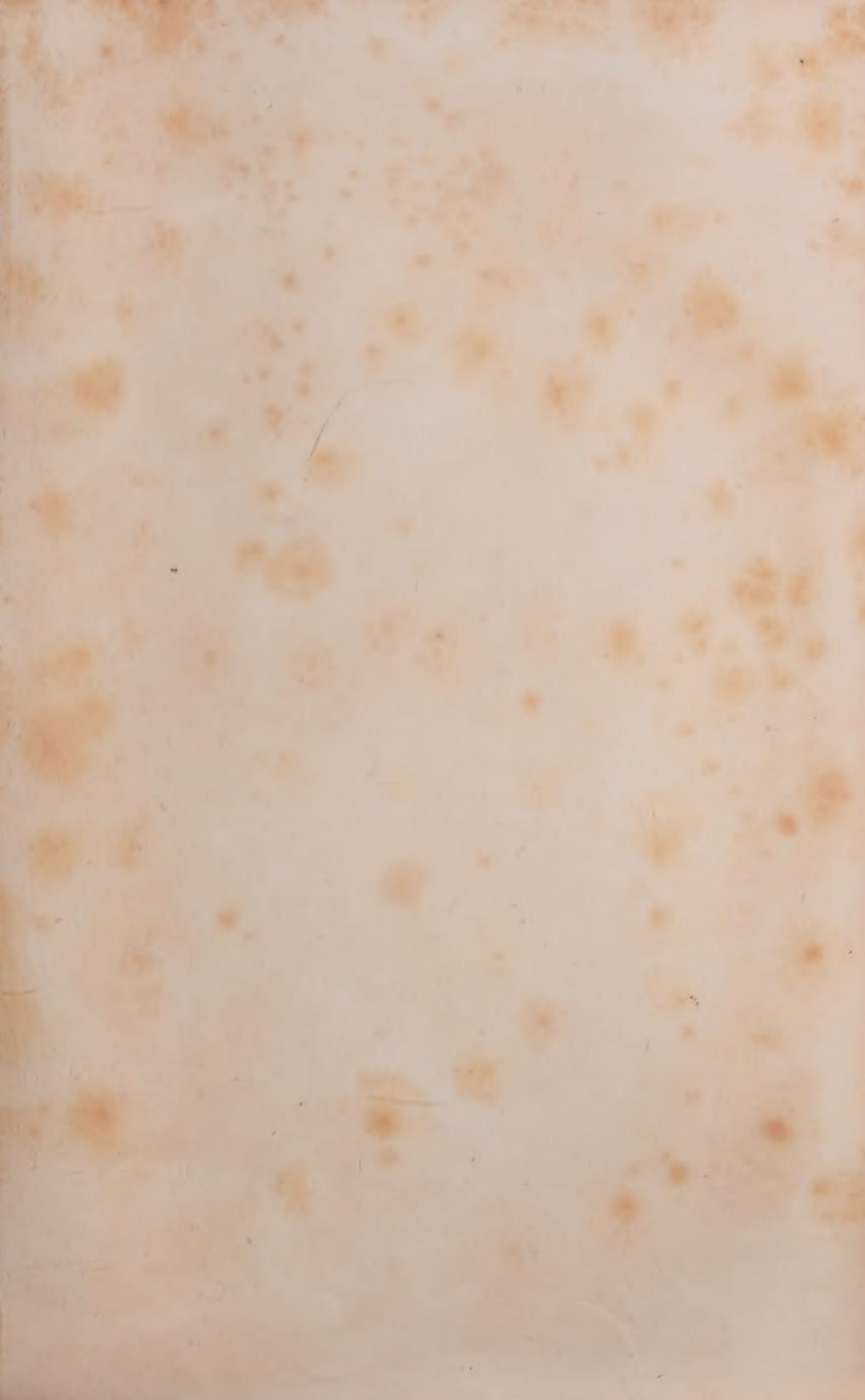
dinavian countries in the north of Europe, and advanced southward into Germany. In the progress of our next volume we hope to get through the Protestant countries, and, perhaps, enter upon Roman Catholic ones.

We flatter ourselves that these sketches of the state of Religion, at home and abroad, will be of permanent value to those who have not time to peruse more extended treatises. It shall continue to be, as it has been, our object to give, in the briefest manner possible, such information as we may possess. The undertaking is by no means an easy one. The difficulties which attend it are not to be measured by the limited articles into which this information is compressed.

The series of Letters to Dr. Candlish, which have reached to seven in number, will be found to possess some interest and value, we trust.

The Illustrations of this volume, with the exception of the first, have all related to the Waldenses and their country. We trust that they have been satisfactory to our readers.

Finally: although the work is far from being what we hope to make it, we cannot but think that it has contained many things during the last year that will make it worth while, for such of our subscribers as can conveniently do so, to have it bound. It will make a handsome volume of considerably more than 550 pages, and is certainly not dear for the price which it has cost. Bespeaking the continued good-will and patronage of our subscribers, and such exertion as they may be able to make in the way of helping us to enlarge the circulation of our Magazine, we bring these remarks to a close.



"COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE"

